

January 9, 1962

Mr. Robert Welch
Belmont, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Welch:

A mutual friend has sent me a copy of a letter he received from you in which you show some considerable excitement over my publishing highlights from your book (personal letter) "The Politician." I have read this book with interest and appreciation and am mystified by the fact that you would want to keep its contents under wraps. America needs to know what you have said in this book and you should not sabotage your own good work.

I am not impressed by your threat to bring legal action against me because that would only serve to lubricate the interest in the circulation; but I am impressed with your expressed desire that I not publish the highlights. If you will write me a letter indicating that you prefer that I not publish them, I shall respect your wishes.

You are doing a great work, and I would be the last to want to injure you or in any way hinder your accomplishments.

May God bless you and extend your years and give you wisdom and courage as you fight in defense of our Constitutional Republic, our Christian civilization, and our patriotic traditions.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,

Gerald L. K. Smith

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

Belmont 78, Massachusetts

April 24, 1962

Founder

ROBERT WELCH

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*Executive Committee

†Deceased

Mr. Gerald L. K. Smith
Post Office Box 27895
Los Angeles 27, California

Dear Mr. Smith:

The rumors prompting this letter may be merely delayed echoes of those started a few months ago, by your announcement at a meeting, as reported to us by a member of the Society, of your intention to publish the "highlights" from my unpublished confidential letter called The Politician. If so, I apologize for bothering you further about the matter, and this letter may simply be ignored.

But just on the chance that these rumors might represent or indicate a continuing or renewed intention on your part of publishing any appreciable fraction of the document in question, it has seemed to me that it might be desirable to repeat the comments which I made to our member, at the time of receiving these earlier reports, and which were conveyed to you as acknowledged by your letter to myself written at that time.

Just when, how, or whether I might ever want to incorporate The Politician, or any appreciable parts of it or chapters from it, in any longer work of contemporary history by myself or anybody else, or use the material in any other way, has not been decided. But the decision most assuredly belongs, and should belong, to myself. And in this connection I believe that any sincere anti-Communist will admit both the truth and the importance of the following point: In the little more than three years since The John Birch Society was founded, we have not only built by far the largest and solidest of the aggressive anti-Communist organizations, but have already done a great deal more than any other group to wake up more Americans to a realization that something is wrong. So my decisions in such matters cannot be entirely lacking in sense, insight, or courage.

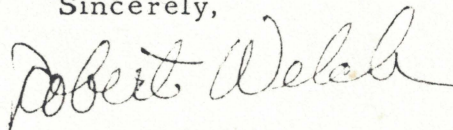
Hoping, therefore, that this warning is both unnecessary and unfair, I still must repeat what I said in my earlier letter, referred to above. That in the event of such publication I not only would bring a suit for damages, such as the one we

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now have in process against Fawcett Publications for plagiarizing forty pages of the Blue Book; but that I would put every bit of the strength of the Society which we could muster into exposing and condemning the unethical aspects and the illegality of such actions.

In this fight against the Communist conspiracy, Mr. Smith, it is not possible for us to cooperate with you -- as we try so hard to do with most other anti-Communist groups or leaders, and successfully do with many -- because of a basic disagreement between us as to the main sources of the strength of the conspiracy. I believe that I have probably read everything that you have, on the subject at issue, from the earliest disclosures of the Protocols of Zion, through Henry Ford's "The International Jew," through the writings of Robert H. Williams and Condé McGinley and a great many more -- including some of the leading writers in French and Spanish on the same subject -- and I simply come out with a different conclusion. I know that there are plenty of Communists of Jewish origin who use their "Jewishness" to promote Communist causes; just as, unfortunately, there are today too many Catholics who are using their Catholicism and even too many Protestant ministers who are using their Protestantism, for the same purpose. But I simply do not believe that, at least since Stalin gathered into his own hands in about 1937 all the reins of Communist conspiratorial power all over the world, the Jews have played any such vital or preponderant part in the total conspiracy, or its management, as appears to you to be the case. My conclusions, arrived at from a lot of studying over a long period of time, are not for "political" reasons, but are entirely sincere. I am willing to concede the same sincerity to yourself in your views. And so, while this divergence of opinion as to the enemy whom we are fighting, or ought to be fighting, makes cooperation between us impossible or at least impracticable, I have been and still am entirely willing to let you fight your battle, without any interference from me, while I fight my own. And all I am asking is that you show me the same consideration. I have never gone out of my way to condemn, or take any "cracks" at, Gerald L. K. Smith and his views, because it simply is not my job or my province to do so. I am, as I have said many times, fighting the Communists, and nobody else. And certainly I have never made any improper or unauthorized use of any of your research materials or writings or work of any kind. And all that I am asking is that you take the same attitude with regard to all that I have done and all that I am trying to do.

Sincerely,



Robert Welch

RW:th

cc: Joe Kamp

April 28, 1962

C Mr. Robert Welch
The John Birch Society
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Welch:

This is to recognize your letter of April 24.

O I shall always be puzzled over your failure to reproduce
"The Politician" for public consumption on the assumption that you
believe that its contents are completely correct and accurate.

P I am not impressed by your dignified threats as to legal action
that you might take against me, or reports that you might put out
among your constituents. You should know better than to believe that
I could be influenced by threat.

P The only thing that influences me is honor and self-respect. You
say that this is a private letter. You request me not to republish it.
I shall respect your request.

Y I have been sentenced twice to prison and defeated my accusers
in the higher court. I have been threatened with indictment and
conviction because of my viewpoints on World War II and because of
literature which I have distributed, and in each instance I have
invited indictment in order that I might establish in Federal Court
logic to support my viewpoints on matters for which I have been perse-
cuted and threatened.

I have been spared from death at the hands of at least three lynch
mobs. At one time an assistant U. S. District Attorney pointed into
my stomach a nine-shot automatic and ordered me to leave the town. I
took the automatic away from him and told him I expected to stay in
his town as long as I desired and from then on would he please cross
the street and go the other way when he saw me coming. He respected

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my suggestions and I remained in his city until I had finished my business.

At one time I was offered \$50,000.00 cash to take a two weeks' vacation during a certain election while taking no stand on any side of the issue involved. I declined and exposed my would-be corrupter.

I was with Huey Long when he was shot, and by a hair's breadth of Providential mercy, I escaped the same fate.

The late Joe Keenan, who was the Assistant Attorney General under Roosevelt, offered me anything in the Administration which would interest me if I would desert the anti-Roosevelt forces and join the Roosevelt forces following the death of Huey Long.

When I first went to Los Angeles, I was picketed by a lynch mob promoted by the Jews numbering over 22,000. From all appearances it would have been sudden death for me to have made my speech. I did so in the Polytechnic High School Auditorium. The Jews and the Communists of Hollywood, including Eddie Robinson, Eddie Cantor, Olivia de Havilland, Bette Davis and others spent \$18,000.00 on picket signs alone with which to picket my meeting.

My enemies retained Mickey Cohen and his gang to assassinate me, and the information concerning this matter came to me from the Subversive Squad of the Los Angeles Police Department.

This brief summary, which only represents a few incidents out of hundreds, is to remind you that I am not influenced by threat. In fact, if I wanted to violate my self-respect and publish this book in contradiction to your desire, the lawsuit and the publicity attending it would be one of the best ways to get the truth to the public which you, for your own reasons, seem determined to bury.

The Ford boys threatened to take legal action against me for republishing "The International Jew," but we republished it just the same, because the truth was more valuable than the cowardice of the young Fords. The element of respect for a good man's desire did not enter into the Ford situation as it does in my relationship to you in this matter.

May I humbly suggest that I am not impressed by your threat to put out any kind of a message to your constituents. I am of the opinion that anything put out by you against me to your people might boomerang. I have no statistics to establish my theory, but I have a rather convincing hunch that if the people who agree with me on the Jewish question were thrown out of the John Birch Society, you might be surprised at how much meat would be taken off the bone.

Will you forgive me if I take issue with a sentence which you

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wrote on page one of your letter: "I believe any sincere anti-Communist will admit both the truth and the importance of the following point: In a little more than three years since the John Birch Society was founded, we have not only built by far the largest and solidest of the aggressive anti-Communist organizations, but we have done a great deal more than any other group. . ."

C I am willing to recognize the fact that you have done something, but you take in a lot of territory with that sentence, and may I remind you that the following people have done something, and we will not deal in quantities or in race horse language including 'first place and show.' (1) Joe McCarthy; (2) Martin Dies; (3) Father Charles Doughlin; (4) Francis Walter; (5) Senator James Eastland; (6) Dean Manion; (7) Joe Kamp; (8) Merwin K. Hart; (9) Carl McIntire; (10) Life Line (H. L. Hunt).

I could name another twenty, but I think when the objective historical record is written concerning the patriotic movements, you will be fortunate as of the moment to be included in the above list.

O This is not intended to depreciate your sincere work, and I believe that you have integrity and honesty. Everything that I have written about you has been complimentary, but I do not believe that you should permit the excessive amount of unfavorable publicity which you have received within the past few months to threaten you with anything that might look like delusions of grandeur. Furthermore, don't you think that in the tradition of American refinement it should remain for objective citizens of character and intelligence to identify the great ones?

P You will observe that I did not include my name in the list summarized above because only time can judge the value of my work. It is easy for me to say that I believe I have espoused the greatest principles which can be espoused, but I have a very humble appraisal of my own part in this work.

Y I have only one life to give, but I have given it all. I have not only been smeared by the enemy, but in many instances I have been smeared and manhandled by those who should be my friends and who have been tempted sometimes to seek safety and praise, professing in loud voices their disagreement with my activities.

I assure you that I shall do nothing to handicap your endeavors as long as it is understood that I am motivated by self-respect and integrity and not by fear or as the object of threat.

The day that a single Rabbi or a single Jewish organization meets and approves the work of the John Birch Society will be a red letter day on my calendar.

In summarizing the literature which you have read concerning the Jewish question, you did not mention "The Iron Curtain Over America" by Colonel John Beaty. What is your estimation of this book?

Mr. Robert Welch

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As for myself concerning you, I respect you, but the maximum of my respect is limited and restrained against the day when you will do one of two things: (a) confess to some of us frankly that there is error in your book "The Politician"; or, (b) insist on its absolute accuracy and display the moral, intellectual and patriotic courage necessary to republish for the public the deadly facts contained in this letter, or book, or whatever you want to call it.

God bless you, Robert Welch. There is nothing you have that I want. I am emotionally adjusted to smear and misunderstanding, social ostracism and isolation. There is no envy in my heart, and I praise all men who are attempting to do good.

May God give you strength, wisdom and courage.

Sincerely yours,

Gerald L. K. Smith

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